



Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

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PCB Congeners

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PCB Congeners

A PCB congener is any single, unique well-defined chemical compound in the PCB category. The name of a congener specifies the total number of chlorine substituents and the position of each chlorine. For example:

4,4'-Dichlorobiphenyl is a congener comprising the biphenyl structure with two chlorine substituents, one on each of the #4 carbons of the two rings. In 1980, a numbering system was developed which assigned a sequential number to each of the 209 PCB congeners. See the [Table of PCB Congeners \(PDF\)](#) (8 pp, 48K) for a list of all PCB congeners.

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PCB Homologs

Homologs are subcategories of PCB congeners having equal numbers of chlorine substituents. For example, the tetrachlorobiphenyls are all PCB congeners with exactly 4 chlorine substituents that may be in any arrangement. See the [Table of PCB Homologs \(PDF\)](#) (1 pg, 17K) for a list of all PCB homologs.

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<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/hazard/tsd/pcbs/pubs/congeners.htm>
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